

# Coffee Beans

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## Abstract

When coffee was brought from the Old World to the New World, a new addictive stimulant was introduced and people in the America's fell in love. Coffee resulted in massive economic benefits but also had negative aspects when considering its affect to the environment. The team studied the drink that over eighty percent of adults drink daily to see how coffee affected the New World when it was brought over from the Old World during the Colombian Exchange. Coffee is the second most profitable commodity in the world and because of that it has a very big impact on the world.



## Orgins

Coffee was discovered in Ethiopia in the 11th Century. When Muslim traders brought coffee to the Middle East, it started spreading to Europe and from Europe to the New World. The Portuguese deliberately brought coffee overseas when they traveled to Brazil in 1727, and they were the first ones to introduce coffee to the New World. Coffee thrived in Brazil because of the climate and the colony was exporting coffee to Europe by 1800.

## Fun Facts

- Turks valued coffee so much so, that if a husband denied his wife coffee, she could seek a divorce.
- There have been at least five attempts to ban coffee in world history due to various cultural conflicts and fear of negatives effects from the stimulant.

## Impacts

### Environmental

Partly due to coffee plantations, only seven percent of the Amazon remains today because room is needed for coffee plantations so trees are cut down. Of the fifty countries with the highest deforestation rates from 1990 to 1995, thirty-seven were coffee producers. Coffee can cause a fungus called *Hemileia vastatrix* which is also know as coffee leaf rust. This can devastate coffee plantations causing less coffee production and the prices of coffee to rise.

### Economical

When coffee was first introduced to the New World, slavery made coffee cheap to produce, thus producing a profitable crop. Because Brazil had a perfect climate for growing coffee, they quickly became the main exporters in the 19th Century. Coffee is the highest profitable commodity following oil. Today, fifty countries profit from growing coffee and the America's alone are responsible for sixty-seven percent of the world's coffee.

### Social

With coffee becoming more popular in the Americas, the need for cheap labor also grew, which caused slaves from Africa to be brought over and forced to work in the coffee farms. Coffee houses began to serve as centers of political meetings and were the location for the spread of news.

### Cultural

When coffee was first discovered it was considered sacred and used in elaborate celebrations. When people realized coffee was a stimulant, monks drank coffee to keep themselves awake during night prayers. In the Middle East, coffee houses became increasingly popular for business meetings. Coffee became very popular in America in 1773 following the Boston Tea Party. Americans started drinking less tea and more coffee as a sign of patriotism. The Civil War also boosted coffee consumption because soldiers relied on the caffeine for a boost of energy.



## Importance Today

Coffee is the leading source of caffeine in the United States today and worldwide, over 500 billion cups of coffee are drank yearly. The coffee industry provides millions of jobs since coffee must be grown, traded, and sold. In the 21st century, coffee was the second most traded product in the world after petroleum, resulting in a profitable market. Coffee is a big part of people's daily routine, a drink many cannot function without, and it provides a stimulant to keep the brain alert. Today, coffee is worth over 100 billion dollars worldwide which puts it ahead of commodities like natural gas, sugar, and corn.

## Nutritional Value

Coffee is an addictive stimulant which affects ones mood and heart rate. It also increases one's metabolism and respiration. Coffee can result in tension, irritability, and insomnia. If a pregnant woman drinks too much coffee, her child can have birth defects. In the 17th century, coffee was thought to cure sore eyes, but is praised less in the 20th century because it can cause heart problems due to the caffeine.



## References



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